

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, BOWERY.—THE FORT OF BONDY—VARIETY.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 254 st. between 5th and 6th avts.—A WIDOW HUNT—TODDLER.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO ACTS, &c.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 12th street.—THE BELL'S STRATAGEM.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, 14th street.—ITALIAN OPERA—MAINE AT 2.—THE MAGIO FLUTE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—NEW VERSION OF MACBETH.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—FRODO.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 52d st.—THE TWILY TEMPEST.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND MENAGERIE, Broadway, corner Third st.—Matinee daily. Performance every evening.

NIELSEN GARDEN, Broadway.—PUPPETRY; OR, THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

FRENCH THEATRE, 14th st. and 6th av.—THE LADY OF LYONS.

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—TART LYNNE.

STONY PASTORS OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c.

BRANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th st.—BRANT'S MINSTRELS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, &c.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway.—FRODO.

APOLLO HALL, corner 25th street and Broadway.—THE NEW HIBERNICAN.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—MINSTRELS—SUPERSTITIONAL ILLUSIONS—HAMLET.

HIPPODROMATON, Fourteenth street.—PROFESSOR RILEY'S COMBUSTION, &c.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

QUADRUPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, April 24, 1870.

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A QUESTION FOR CONGRESS.—If the Arcade abomination loosens the foundations of the New York Post Office, on City Hall Park, what becomes of the Congressional appropriations to construct the building?

THE NOBLEST PROJECT OF THE DAY.—That to construct substantial stone docks and piers on the water fronts of this city. The work should be commenced at once and prosecuted with the utmost vigor until completed.

PRETTY GOOD FOR PHILADELPHIA.—The increase of her city debt from \$16,781,470 in 1856 to \$42,401,933 in 1870. This is a little more than half the debt of the city of New York, but it is very good for Philadelphia, so far as getting into debt is an evidence of prosperity.

LIVELY TIMES IN YONKERS.—In the democratic primary elections for the coming Rochester State Convention. There are two factions—a Tammany and an anti-Tammany faction—and they are designated by the Yonkers Herald as the "young democracy" and the "muttonhead democracy." The same paper gives the motto of the "young democracy" as "Heads I win; tails you lose," and of the "muttonheads" as "Sic transit gloria mundi." In view of the defeats of said "muttonheads" in these primary elections. With such beginnings we may expect rare sport among "the emerald" all over the State in the interval to September.

France—The Plebiscite and the Imperial Proclamation.

In another place in this day's HERALD will be found copious cable despatches, special and from other sources, relative to the reform movement in France, and particularly to the plebiscite. The day fixed for the voting is the 8th of May. The plebiscite runs as follows:—"The people approve the liberal reforms which have been effected in the constitution since 1860 by the Emperor, with the concurrence of the great legislative bodies of the State, and ratify the *Senatus Consultum* of April 20, 1870." To this the people are to answer "Yes" or "No" on paper. The legal electors of the army and navy are to vote at their respective headquarters. The ballot boxes are to be opened at six o'clock in the morning and are to remain open until six o'clock in the evening. The voting papers will be examined in the first instance in each department and by a trio of counsellors appointed by the prefect. The vote will be verified on the 10th and officially proclaimed on the 12th of May. The returns from the departments will be finally canvassed by the Corps Legislatif. The decree, which contains numerous other items of minor importance, is signed by all the Ministers. The *Senatus Consultum* forms part of the document, as our readers will see by referring to our telegraphic columns. It appears that the legitimists have made up their minds to vote in the negative. The republicans, who will either vote "No" or return their papers blank or refrain from voting altogether, have resolved to hoist their own banners on the occasion. The International Workmen's Association have decided not to vote; and, to add to the gravity of the situation, a general strike had been agreed upon.

Between now and the 8th of May there will not certainly be any lack of excitement in France. The Emperor's policy is no longer a mystery. It is clearly and fully stated. All the world now knows what he means; how much he intends to part with and how much he intends to retain. The French people cannot pretend to be in doubt as to what is meant in this particular instance by "Yes" and "No." It is for Frenchmen themselves to decide how they will act in the premises. All the world looks anxiously on; but Frenchmen are directly interested. The responsibilities and the issues are undoubtedly theirs. How they will act is a question which the future alone can satisfactorily answer. How they ought to act is a question which politicians and publicists of different stripe are differently answering. Most men who have faith in parliamentary government condemn the plebiscite as wrong in principle and as theoretically unnecessary. The object of a Parliament, they say, is to give just expression to the popular will through chosen and trusted representatives. Where universal suffrage prevails, as in France, every general election is practically a plebiscite, and the popular branch of the Legislature is the result. A select body of men, chosen by the nation, having learning, leisure, wisdom, are surely better qualified to deal with grave constitutional questions than the nation itself, especially when popular passions are let loose, and unreason rather than reason prevails. Parliamentarians, therefore, very naturally come to the conclusion that the Emperor, in refusing to deal with the people's representatives and in dealing with the people themselves, is, as one has well put it, appealing from Philip sober to Philip drunk. Unquestionably there is much sound sense in this reasoning. The manner in which this great constitutional question is put before the people partakes, in the estimation of such persons, very much of the character of a farce. "Yes" or "No" is all the voter can say. There is no room for suggestion, no possibility for compromise, no opportunity for resolution. Let us imagine any of our recent amendments to the constitution submitted to us in this form and we shall comprehend somewhat the position and feelings of millions of the people of France. Looking at the plebiscite from a parliamentary standpoint, or rather from the standpoint of a free and self-governing people, the crowning objection to the Emperor's policy really is, that while he seems to grant further liberties he is really making himself more and more the centre of all power and the source of all reform. As he defies the people's House to-day so may he defy it at any future time when his interests seem to render it necessary. He asks France to sanction reform, and France, in doing so, repeats the vote of 1852 and proclaims him master.

It is possible, however, that this mode of testing the Emperor's policy is too severe. The standard is, perhaps, too high. The situation of France is peculiar. The absolutely correct is not always the politically expedient. In politics the straight course is not always the wisest. If we take into consideration all the necessities of the Emperor's position—his own love of power and fame, his desire to secure his son's succession and to establish his dynasty, the peculiar and dangerous elements with which he has to work, his immense success—we shall, perhaps, find good reason to judge him mercifully and to praise rather than to blame. What man who had won power as the Emperor has won it, who has been encouraged to keep it as he has been encouraged, would rashly fling it from him? If we have a right to judge the conduct of the present ruler of France by the highest rules of morality, we are not less called upon to regard him as a skillful player in a great game. Looking at him in the latter character, there are few who will be unwilling to give him praise. He has played long, and he has played skillfully and with more certain promise of success than now. And as his personal success has not been to the disadvantage of France—nor, indeed, to the world at large—we ought not to refuse to do honor to greatness. If the Emperor means well, if he really does intend to go on widening the area of liberty, and if there be no choice between such liberty as he offers and revolution, with all its horrors, surely Frenchmen ought to vote "Yes" on the 8th of May. If they do not it will be a dark day for France and for Europe. The situation in France is all the more critical because of the Emperor's numerous opportunities to involve Europe in wide, wild and devastating war.

The Discrepancies of Religious Teachings.

After six days spent in making money, indulging in worldly amusements and frivolities and in the exercise of very little charity, humanity this morning rises from bed to prepare for Sabbath devotions. As in the ordinary affairs of life, our people pray with much of that nonchalance which has struck the foreigner as a prominent feature in American character. We wax rich, grow poor, indulge in pleasure and dissipation with a don't-care-if-I-do feeling that on reflection seems something astonishing. In like manner we worship God as if we are not quite certain in our own minds whether we are performing a praiseworthy duty or merely yielding to an ancient superstition. This apparent irreligion is general; it is not confined to any particular denomination or sect. The evil—for it is an evil—is not inseparable from our political form of government, and yet it is partly due to our republican institutions. For the past eighty years we have been endeavoring to make religion "republican in form," forgetting that the government of God is a despotism. If we have not succeeded it has been because Christianity is too powerful to yield to human efforts; at the same time it is undeniable that we have divested religion of much of its influence and, we were about to write, divinity. Nor is this deplorable truth to be wondered at. The facility with which any man or woman can ascend a pulpit and preach the Gospel according to his ideas is sufficient to weaken faith. Men who know little or nothing about the fundamental principles of Christianity insinuate into the minds of easily convinced persons such peculiar theological notions that if the various opinions held by the several denominations were all printed side by side they would exhibit the most ludicrous contradictions.

In the churches to-day there will be the usual services. If variety is the spice of life in ordinary matters it is also the spice of religion. We doubt if any two sermons on the same subject, which may be delivered to-day, will be found to take the same view on the most vital questions concerning our souls, unless, as is often the case, the ideas are borrowed from some of the old thinkers. Of course, this opposition of views gives the sinner a chance to make a selection; but when our salvation is at stake it is somewhat uncomfortable not to feel certain whether we have chosen the right or the wrong path. What we need is a universal church—one that in all fundamental principles shall be catholic. In minor details differences of opinion are permissible, but on the great question of which is the right path to heaven we should be united. We would suggest to our city preachers the policy of inaugurating measures which will end the present deplorable discrepancies, which confuse the sinner and alarm the saint.

News from Bagdad—Our Special Correspondence from the Banks of the Tigris.

Our special correspondence from Asiatic Turkey, dated at Bagdad on the 23d of February, as it appears in our columns to-day, will attract very general attention. Its contents will carry the mind of the American democracy, old and young, but of the "young democracy," perhaps, more particularly, away from the remembrances of present election triumphs and municipal defeats, back to the period of the Saracen Caliphate, to the "gate of the Talmisan" and the tomb of Zobeide, and thus, perhaps, cause the more active members and those who are more keenly disappointed to reflect on the instability of party greatness and how the "men of the time" loom up, fit across a temporary stage and disappear from earth. Our writer, standing amid one hundred mosques and minarets, sketches Babylonia and Mesopotamia, as they are to be seen to-day, at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The river and rural scenes are painted with much spirit, the hoary traditions of the East appearing as they have just commenced to dissipate under the influence of the modern agencies of steam and electricity. French energy and capital proposed to open a regular communication between Bussorah and Algeria by steam. Of the people and their prospects and present hopes it is enough to repeat the information given by our special writer, to the effect that in Mesopotamia the Garden of Eden is used as a telegraphic station and the City of the Caliphs made a starting point for steamships. It is the East and the eternal principle—the light from the Orient by means of American special letters and the great printing presses of New York.

A CHAMPION IN THE RIGHT PLACE.—The Hon. James Irving, when he stood up on the floor of the House and denounced, almost single-handed, the Arcade Railway bill. The gentlemanly mechanic, Bergen, spoke as an expert in favor of the bill; but Mr. Irving took him to task very quickly, reminding him that it was one thing to be a successful mechanic, but quite another thing to be able to demolish, root up and destroy our beautiful highway. Irving's constituents have an interest in Broadway, and they are lucky to have a representative with backbone enough to face nearly the whole Assembly upon a measure which threatens to turn it into a wilderness. Mr. Irving's action presented a strong contrast to that of other New York delegates in the House.

DISRAELI'S NOVEL.—"Lothair," by B. Disraeli, is the literary sensation of the hour in London. One of the critical anchors of the great capital says:—"If Mr. Disraeli had announced that on Monday, the 2d of May, he would sing at the opera, dance on the tight rope at the Crystal Palace, or preach a sermon at Mr. Spurgeon's tabernacle, popular surprise and curiosity would not be more strongly roused than they have been by the advertisement that on that day will be published 'Lothair.'" Some advance sheets of this novel have been seen on this side the Atlantic, and they indicate that it treats that particular range of topics upon which people would have the greatest curiosity to hear the literary Minister—"the social and political questions of the day." The book will be published here by the Appletons.

THE WORST PROJECT OF THE DAY.—To burrow under the grand thoroughfare of Manhattan Island in order that unscrupulous jobbers and greedy millionaires may construct the Arcade abomination.

Congress—The House Yesterday—Review of the Week.

The proceedings in the House yesterday were of a more interesting character than usual of Saturdays, when it has, heretofore, been the custom to bore the few members present with speechmaking. The day has served as a sort of vent for the accumulated gas of the week; but yesterday a large portion of the time was more pleasantly and profitably occupied in discussing the rights of absentees. The order to the Sergeant-at-Arms for the arrest of the members absent without leave was reiterated. Butler, who had a leave of absence, but had gone away a few hours before his leave commenced, and who is now probably in Massachusetts with his family, ready to engage in the important law business that called him away, was among the members ordered to be brought back, but on a motion of Mr. Dawes he was allowed to remain away on paying his ten dollars fine. John Morrissey is not as yet recalled. He has an indefinite leave on the plea of illness, and is probably at present in this city too weak and languishing to do more than attend to his ordinary Broadway business or make up stakes with Horace Greeley. A resolution was adopted yesterday, however, to recall all indefinite leaves, and it is probable that John, notwithstanding his indisposition, will be compelled to return to his arduous Congressional duties, including the congenial requirements of the Revolutionary Pension Committee. The income tax came up in the House during the day, and the members showed a disposition to fight shy of the Senate proposition, as it is expected that the House committee will propose a measure of their own that will be more satisfactory.

The week's work of Congress closes with but a slim clearing away of the unfinished business that is now so thickly piled on the Speaker's and Vice President's tables. There has been no bill of decided importance disposed of. The Georgia bill, which passed the Senate, requires further action in the House, on account of the amendments made by the Senate. The new apportionment bill, which passed without debate in the House, has yet to receive the concurrence of the Senate. The Northern Pacific Railroad bill, which passed the Senate on Friday, has not yet been acted upon in the House. The Sypher contested election case, which has been decided in the House, is merely the prelude to three or four other cases of the same sort; and the Tariff bill is a tough subject that is usually kept under discussion throughout the session, as handy to have in the House for the ventilation of Congressional ideas on political economy. The prosecution of business has therefore been unsatisfactory, considering how deep in arrears both houses are. The display otherwise has been eminently characteristic. The House has had its fill of legislative burlesque and travesty, between Sypher and the Ohio Legislature and the absent members, and the Senate, which is nothing if not discursive, has even surpassed the most sanguine expectations with its Georgia "Hash" and Captain Bobadil Chandler's bombastic flight of fancy about the chamber astride the American eagle, and enrobed, like the dying Kirby, in the American flag.

THE LEGISLATURE YESTERDAY.—Both houses worked rapidly and effectually yesterday and up to a late hour last night, winding up the business of the session. In the Senate the bill to enlarge the Champlain Canal was lost. The Free Canal Funding bill, as amended by the Assembly, and a bill designating Commissioners of Emigration and a number of others of considerable importance were passed. In the Assembly the bills repealing the Registry law except in New York city; Mr. Fields' Jury bill, amending the election law to suit colored voters; the Annual Tax bill; relative to the Brooklyn Water and Sewer Commission, and incorporating the Brooklyn Underground Railway Company, were all passed. The Senate amendments to the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Railway bill were concurred in.

A LITTLE AHEAD OF PUNCH OR JUDY.—In the African celebration at Louisville, Ky., the other day, of the fifteenth amendment, they had a transparency in which the "Train of Progress" was depicted—a locomotive labelled "The Fifteenth Amendment," with a train of twenty-nine cars attached, representing the ratifying States, and a number of jackasses harnessed to the rear car, emblematic of the States refusing to ratify, and vainly trying to pull the train backward. A neat thing for Sambo—"a palpable hit."

FOOD FOR THE THOUGHTFUL AT ALBANY.—Contrast the great advantages of a magnificent system of stone docks, giving to foreigners on their arrival here the first impressions of the grandeur of our city, with the contemptible device of spoiling the main artery of business by wantonly excavating the soil beneath its surface, and giving to all the stores and warehouses on its line a tumbledown appearance that will make New York resemble a decrepit, old, worn out European city, instead of the youngest, most vigorous and most flourishing metropolis in the whole world.

PAPAL INFALLIBILITY is now being debated, as will be seen by our cable telegrams from Europe, outside the Vatican in Rome, in Constantinople and the Tyrol. The arguments are conducted by means of the batons of the police and the bayonets of the military. Bishop Strossmeyer's sword scene is becoming popular. It is about time that the Council should do something.

THE MEN WHO KEPT THE BRIDGE.—Irving and Mitchell, who made such a gallant stand against the outrageous Arcade Railway bill in the Assembly on Friday. When the gold-clad cohorts of Vanderbilt were thundering at the gate these two soldiers stood firm and kept the bridge, as best they could, against the enemy.

AN IMPROVEMENT ON REYNOLDS.—Chambers, the murderer of Mr. Voorhees, slightly betters the example of Reynolds. Reynolds gloated over the law in advance, and by that fact dared and challenged it to a test in his own person whether it could punish murder. Chambers kept silence till acquitted, and now gloats over the failure of the law with safe triumph.

The Arcade Railway Rascality.

The Arcade Railway bill proposes to legalize the grandest piece of rascality that ever raised its head even in the Legislature of this State. It concentrates in one act roguery and rascality enough for twenty ordinary sessions, and plunders enough to plate with gold all the men that might vote in its favor during all those years. It may give a hint even how pitifully your grand railway jobber uses his law-making tools. The men who vote for these laws in the Legislature, and the men who want the law made bear about the same comparative relation to one another as the affluent shopkeeper to the poor seamstress in the song of the shirt. They give five, ten, perhaps twenty thousand dollars for a vote, and the vote gives to them a law with six hundred million dollars in it. How contemptible is the proportion for the poor rogue who betrays the trust of his constituents and perjures himself by the direct sale of what he has sworn to use only with conscientious regard to the welfare of the whole people!

This great scheme to plough up Broadway, to excavate and tumble down the greatest retail trade of the city, and to destroy the most extensive business that is anywhere in the world concentrated on a single street, has come to a sudden standstill in the Assembly. Only one Senator from the city, it will be remembered, voted in its favor in the other house. That one Senator was Mr. Genet. Mr. Genet is the party known as "the young democracy." All the votes of that party, therefore, were cast in its favor in the Senate, and that is a party that is not very strong in the House. The fact, therefore, that the bill to send a great steam plough down Broadway was a pet measure of the young democracy did not give it a favorable start in the Assembly, and the other fact, that a wholesome and extensive expression of popular indignation made itself heard, was, fortunately, not without its effect. The bill, therefore, was not rushed through, and we are at a period in the session when delay itself has promise for good. If, therefore, the bill is not taken out of its course it cannot pass, and members must fight its further progress with every technicality of legislation that secures delay.

Some pretty good sense has been spoken in the Assembly on the subject of this bill. One member said: "I desire to say further that I can appreciate and do appreciate that a proper regard should be had for the citizens we represent, and there is nothing that gives more gratification than to see representatives acting the part of the watchdog around the gates of the Treasury or around the other interests of the citizens. But I say there are times when the watchdogs are unfaithful and when they are appeased by a bone." Now this is excellent. A member actually appreciates that "a proper" regard should be had for the interest of the citizens, and knows that there are times when the watchdogs are "appeased by a bone." Now who would believe that this honest watchdog was actually doing nothing in favor of the bill when he used these words? Who would believe, in fact, that he had the very bone referred to in his mouth at the time? Another member spoke as follows: "The Arcade Railway bill is one of the most important bills ever introduced into this House. I have not read one word of it. I don't know whether to vote for it or not, and I want to know." Here is the whole subject in three short sentences. The member wants time to read the bill before it passes, and if the time is given we may be sure the bill will not pass.

WHAT BROOMS OF THE HOTELS ON BROADWAY if the Arcade abomination becomes a law? The rumble of the cars, as they run beneath the foundations of the principal hotels, will remind occupants that California has been transferred to Manhattan Island, and that an earth or a sand quake may be expected at any moment. What Californian will occupy quarters in a hotel on Broadway in such a crisis, unless it be in a hotel established upon such sound foundations as the Metropolitan?

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN MASSACHUSETTS.—The lower house of the Massachusetts Legislature, by a vote of 133 to 68, has rejected the proposed amendment to the State constitution enabling women to vote. Queer people, those Massachusetts Puritans! They tell the land with their women's rights notions and women's rights women as lecturers and preachers of the new gospel of equal rights; but in Massachusetts her law-makers don't want this thing of woman suffrage, and they won't have it. They are, perhaps, afraid it might result in an increase of women's wages by the votes of the factory girls—reason enough against woman suffrage in Massachusetts.

A WRECK OF BROADWAY is one of the ineceptions of the Arcade abomination. The building up of a new thoroughfare, which must be intended, will be like the construction of a new metropolis of the nation. Are there enough country members of the Legislature to vote for such a measure and return to their constituents with the stigma of damaging the great outlet to the whole world of their own internal commerce?

IMPORTANT IS TRUE.—The report that seven more Senators have given in their adhesion to the treaty for the annexation of all that portion of the splendid island of St. Domingo known as the republic of Dominica, and the report that these additional seven Senators will secure the two-thirds vote necessary to ratify the treaty. But, in any event, we feel pretty well satisfied that General Grant will carry his point in this matter, which is the acquisition of Dominica, as the beginning of a new American policy in the Gulf of Mexico.

A LOUD CALL ON GOVERNOR HOFFMAN.—We think our citizens can rely upon the fidelity of Governor Hoffman in respecting their wishes by promptly vetoing the Arcade abomination if it comes before him for approval. He is too much indebted to the people of the city of New York for his continued and unparalleled political success to slight their manifold desires in regard to this nefarious project.

THE SCHENCK PROTECTIVE TARIFF BILL, from the heavy labor with which it "drags its slow length along," will probably be worried to death in the House. Pennsylvania is in a dreadful way about it; but Pennsylvania is destined to discover that there may be too much even of protection. Better let well enough alone, for fear of something worse.

Fashionable Life and Dress Fashions in Europe.

France, restless, unquiet, imaginative, yet still elegant, France; France, the inventor of the guillotine and fashioner of the latest necktie and summer chapeau, stands forth in our columns to-day in all the glory of the "first fine Sunday" of the season, dressed for spring and in the most complete enjoyment of the hour. Our special fashion writer in the French capital furnishes a dazzling exposition of the results in the able and interesting communications which appear elsewhere in our columns. The Empress Eugénie stands forth in a new toilet. Napoleon is robed for a royal entertainment. The "prevailing colors" in silks and satins flash as it were before our eyes. Concert and dinner costumes are described with a degree of accuracy which will be very likely to prove a little bewildering to those who have not really studied the *ton* as a domestic science. We are told of new hats and of the nearest little boots and shoes—the Alpha and Omega, as it were, of the devotees of modern style as exemplified by artistic skill. The monarchs and people were in the theatres and on the Bois, amused and smiling, glittering in gold and jewels, and whirling and dashing along in fine equipages and on horseback, apparently happy and unthinking of the future as if Dives and Lazarus had never been spoken of, and Danton and Robespierre and Waterloo and Saint Helena and the *coup d'état* and the trade strikes had never existed or been fought or executed.

Our special pen and ink picture of "life," as seen in the Bois, is touchingly excellent and eloquently natural. It will prove quite attractive as affording a view of the French people as they are and as they really wish to remain—unmolested by politics and in the full exercise of the free bent of their national characteristics in the quiet family circle, and a general exercise and interchange of the most refining social amenities and neighborly compliments, and good feeling.

Recklessness at Sea.

The steamship Cleopatra has arrived safely, although disabled, at Fortress Monroe, having escaped the combined horrors of the sea, the neglect, apparently, of another vessel which ignored her signals of distress and a sensational report of burning in one of the Bohemian journals of this city. The captain of the Virgo, who saw her signals of distress and failed to go to her assistance, states, in explanation, that he thought the rockets were signals between two other steamers that had just passed him, but that if they had been continued three or four times he would have known them to be signals of distress and have gone to her assistance without reference to the other steamers, which, he says, were nearer to her neighborhood than he was. We have had at least one deplorable instance lately of the inhumanity of thus neglecting such calls for assistance. If the captain did not know signals of distress when he saw them he should be compelled to read up on the subject, and if the signals were at all ambiguous the present code should be revised so that they can no longer be liable to misinterpretation. It seems in this particular instance that it would have been money saved to the owners of the Virgo if she had assisted the Cleopatra, as both vessels belong in large part to the same owners.

We hardly know how to treat of the conduct of the captain of the Venezuela, the long disabled steamer, which has been just seven weeks coming from Liverpool, having arrived safely in this port yesterday, after beating about disabled and almost wrecked for nearly five weeks, the captain refusing any assistance insisting on his ability to get his ship to port all right by himself. We cannot but commend the hardy bravery of him and his crew, the tireless devotion with which they stuck to their ship, and the dogged perseverance which finally brought them safe and unaided to port; but we ought, and yet have hardly the heart, to condemn the insane foolhardiness evinced in refusing assistance, in order, probably, to save a few dollars salvage.

GOVERNOR HOFFMAN expects to become President of the United States. Let him remember that his native city, the city that has elevated him to honorable positions by overwhelming votes, protests against the Arcade abomination.

BIG SIX IN THE FIRST WARD.

Meeting of the Tigers.

A meeting of the First Ward William M. Tweed Club was held last evening at No. 101 Broad street. Mr. John Murphy was in the chair. The first business of the meeting consisted in the enrollment of members, 200 of whom were admitted to the franchise.

MR. HANSON, in the absence of the regular chairman, was called upon to preside. Mr. John Kagan, of the Fifth District First Ward General Committee, was requested to make a few remarks to the club. He said it was the first time in his life he ever ventured to address an assembly of his fellow citizens upon any political subject; but, knowing Mr. Tweed from boyhood until the present time, he was satisfied that the great Sachem of Tammany was on the true power to democratic glory and ascendancy; that the rulers of the First Ward erred gravely in supposing that William M. Tweed was a man of his interests and bent only upon securing certain private ends of his own. On the contrary, Mr. Tweed, disregarding the petty jealousies of ward clubs and ward politicians, and rising to the height of the occasion where statesmanship and political experience were needed, showed himself the true exponent of the great democratic party of the nation.

MR. VINCENT, being nominated by a member of the club for the position of Assistant Alderman, in a few neat and eloquent remarks, declined the nomination on the grounds of his being perpetually.

No further business being before the meeting an adjournment was proposed and acted upon. The attendance was large, orderly and earnest.

THE SHRIEVALLY.

A meeting of the Seventeenth ward E. J. Shandley Association was held last evening at Belmors, No. 517 Bowery. The meeting was organized by the election of Dr. J. B. Dennis as President and John E. Collins as Secretary. A series of resolutions culled from Justice E. J. Shandley and nominating him for the office of Sheriff for the city and county of New York were unanimously adopted. Addresses in favor of the claims of the gentleman were made by Messrs. Collins, Seymour, Heyman, Charles Austin, Dennis Keenan and others. The association will hold an open air meeting in a short time.

VIRGINIA REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

The two factions of the Virginia republicans met in convention on the 20th inst. for the purpose of harmonizing differences and uniting the party. A platform of principles was adopted favoring enforcement of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution; a general system of public education under national law; universal amnesty; subject to the legislation of Congress; encouragement of internal improvements, but opposing monopolies; a proper enforcement of the State constitution and support of President Grant's administration. A resolution was adopted that the convention adjourn to the 25th inst. in Governor Walker's republican hall, but declining to characterize his political course. The convention at last adjourned was discussing the subject of an address to the people of Virginia.